GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2757
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
SUICIDES BY FARMERS
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;DILEEP SANGHANI;RAJO SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers of various States, including the State of Gujarat are not gettingremunerative price of their crop and large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether any committee has been constituted to look into the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have recently formulated any scheme to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Raw Cotton (Kapas) eachseason in all cotton growing states including Gujarat which are remunerative to cotton growers. However, when the market prices of kapas touch the MSP level, the Cotton Corporation of India(CCI), a central nodal agency undertakes price support operation and procures entire quantity ofkapas offered for sale to prevent distress sale by the farmers. The State Governments includingGujarat have not reported any suicide by cotton farmers.

(e)to(g): To protect the interest of cultivators the CCI procured a total quantity of 8.99 lakhbales of 170 Kgs each including Gujarat, whose share was 2.22 lakh bales in 2001-02. During 2002-03 the domestic prices of cotton have been ruling above MSP, no procurement has been found necessary. Also the import duty on cotton has been raised from 5% to 10%.